CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1   1.   (Currently amended) A method for verifying biometric and / or other information

2   obtained from persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and /

3   or the validity of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there

4   are a plurality of databases with information about the persons and the documents, said

5   method comprising the steps of:

6   identifying the database(s) ones of the plurality of databases that contain

7   information necessary for verifying the obtained information;

8   comparing the information from the identified database(s) databases with the

9   obtained information to verify the latter without disclosing database information to

10 anyone; and

11   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

12 information from the identified database(s) databases.

1   2.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the obtained

2   information is obtained from a source and further comprising the step of forwarding the

3   information match indication to the source.

1   3.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 2 further comprising the step of

2   forwarding the obtained information to a remote location where the information

3   comparing step takes place.

1   4.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 2 wherein a person provides the

2   obtained information in order to obtain a document, and the obtained information is

3   verified during the information comparing step to verify the identity of the last mentioned

4   person before the last mentioned document is issued to that person.

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1 5.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein a person provides the
2 obtained information in order to obtain a document, and the obtained information is
3 verified during the information comparing step to verify the identity of the last mentioned
4 person before the last mentioned document is issued to that person.

1 6.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein a person provides an
2 issued document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that person
3 and from the issued document they provide.

1 7.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 2 wherein a person provides an
2 issued document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that person
3 and from the issued document they provide.

1 8.   (Currently amended) Apparatus for verifying biometric and / or other information
2 obtained from persons and / or from documents, to verify the identity of the persons and /
3 or the validity of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there
4 are databases with information about the persons and the documents, said apparatus
5 comprising:
6   means for identifying the ~~database(s)~~ databases that contain information necessary
7 for verifying the obtained information;
8   means for comparing the information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases
9 with the obtained information to verify the latter without disclosing database information
10 to anyone; and   .
11   means for providing an indication whether or not the obtained information
12 matches the information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases.

1 9.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 8 further comprising means
2 for obtaining the information from persons and documents and wherein the information
3 match indication provided by said indication providing means is forwarded to the

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4 database identifying means that in turn forwards the information match indication to the

5 information obtaining means that provided the obtained information.

1 10.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 9 wherein the comparison

2 means is located remote from the database identifying means.

1 11.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 8 wherein a person provides

2 the obtained information in order to obtain a document, and the obtained information is

3 verified by the comparing means to verify the identity of the last mentioned person before

4 the last mentioned document is issued to them.

1 12.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 2 wherein a person provides

2 an issued document and the obtained information to be verified is obtained from that

3 person and from the issued document they provide.

1 13.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 11 further comprising means

2 for obtaining the information from persons and documents and wherein the information

3 match indication provided by said indication providing means is forwarded to the

4 database identifying means that in turn forwards the information match indication to the

5 information obtaining means that provided the obtained information.

1 14.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 12 further comprising means

2 for obtaining the information from persons and documents and wherein the information

3 match indication provided by said indication providing means is forwarded to the

4 database identifying means that in turn forwards the information match indication to the

5 information obtaining means that provided the obtained information.

1 15.   (Currently amended) A method for verifying biometric and / or other information

2 obtained from persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and /

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3   or the validity of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there

4   are databases with information about the persons and the documents, said method

5   comprising the steps of:

6   obtaining information from persons and / or from documents from at least one

7   terminal;

8   identifying the ~~database(s)~~ databases that contain information necessary for

9   verifying the obtained information;

10   forwarding the obtained information to one or more servers that have access to the

11   information in the identified databases;

12   comparing the information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases with the

13   obtained information in the server to verify the obtained information without disclosing

14   database information to anyone;

15   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

16   information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases; and

17   returning the match indications to the terminal from which the obtained

18   information that was compared to database information was originally sent.

1   16.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein a person at a

2   terminal provides the obtained information in order to obtain a new document, and the

3   obtained information is verified during the information comparing step to verify the

4   identity of the last mentioned person before the new document is issued to that person.

1   17.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 16 wherein the databases are

2   locations remote from the terminals.

1   18.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein a person at a

2   terminal provides an issued document and the obtained information to be verified is

3   obtained from that person and from the issued document they provide.

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1   19.   (Original) The method in accordance with claim 18 wherein the databases are
2   locations remote from the terminals.

1   20.   (Currently amended) Apparatus for verifying biometric and / or other information
2   obtained from persons and / or from documents, to verify the identity of the persons and /
3   or the validity of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there
4   are databases with information about the persons and the documents, said apparatus
5   comprising:
6   at least one terminal at which information is obtained from persons and / or from
7   documents;
8   an information verification server for identifying the ~~database(s)~~ databases that
9   contain information necessary for verifying the information obtained at ones of the
10 terminals;
11   at least one trust authority server associated with at least one of the databases, and
12 the obtained information is forwarded via the information verification server to the trust
13 authority server associated with the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases, and the trust
14 authority server compares the obtained information forwarded to it to verify the obtained
15 information without disclosing database information to anyone; and
16   wherein the trust authority server provides an indication whether or not the
17 obtained information matches the information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases,
18 and the information match indication is returned via the information verification server to
19 the terminal from which the obtained information was originally sent for verification.

1   21.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 20 wherein a person at a
2   terminal provides the obtained information in order to obtain a new document, and the
3   obtained information is verified by the trust authority server before the new document is
4   issued to that person.

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1   22.   (Original) The invention in accordance with claim 20 wherein a person at a

2   terminal provides an issued document and the obtained information to be verified is

3   obtained from that person and from the issued document they provide.

1   23.   (Currently amended) A method for verifying biometric and / or other information

2   obtained from persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and /

3   or the validity of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there

4   are multiple databases with information about the persons and the documents, said

5   method comprising the steps of:

6   identifying the ~~database(s)~~ ones of the multiple databases that contain information

7   necessary for verifying the obtained information;

8   forwarding the obtained information to one or more servers that have access to the

9   information in the identified databases to verify the obtained information without

10   disclosing database information to anyone; and

11   receiving an indication from the one or more servers indicating whether or not the

12   obtained information matches the information in the ~~database(s)~~ identified databases.

1   24.   (Currently amended) A method for verifying biometric and / or other information

2   obtained from persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and /

3   or the validity of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there

4   are multiple databases with information about the persons and the documents, said

5   method comprising the steps of:

6   receiving a request at one or more servers that have access to information in ones

7   of the multiple databases needed to verify the information obtained from the persons and

8   / or from the documents without disclosing database information to anyone;

9   comparing the obtained information with information in the last mentioned ones

10   of the multiple databases at the one or more servers to verifying the obtained information;

11   and

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12   forwarding an indication from the one or more servers whether or not the obtained

13   information matches the information in ~~the database(s)~~ <u>any of the multiple databases</u>.

1   25.   (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing computer

2   executable instructions for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from

3   persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity

4   of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are <u>multiple</u>

5   databases with information about the persons and the documents, the executable program

6   instructions comprising program instructions for:

7   identifying <u>ones of</u> the <u>multiple databases</u> ~~database(s)~~ that contain information

8   necessary for verifying the obtained information;

9   comparing the information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ <u>databases</u> with the

10   obtained information to verify the latter without disclosing database information to

11   anyone; and

12   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

13   information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ <u>databases</u>.

1   26.   (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing computer

2   executable instructions for verifying biometric and / or other information obtained from

3   persons and / or from documents to verify the identity of the persons and / or the validity

4   of the documents, while protecting the privacy of the persons, where there are <u>multiple</u>

5   databases with information about the persons and the documents, the executable program

6   instructions comprising program instructions for:

7   obtaining information from persons and / or from documents from at least one

8   terminal;

9   identifying the <u>ones of the multiple databases</u> ~~database(s)~~ that contain information

10   necessary for verifying the obtained information;

11   forwarding the obtained information to one or more servers that have access to the

12   information in the identified databases;

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13   comparing the information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases with the

14   obtained information in the server to verify the obtained information without disclosing

15   database information to anyone;

16   providing an indication whether or not the obtained information matches the

17   information from the identified ~~database(s)~~ databases; and

18   returning the match indications to the terminal from which the obtained

19   information that was compared to database information was originally sent.

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